

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

Thursday, July 23, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Physical Location: None

Virtual Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88630150568?pwd=SVViM0RpMEZoOS9CRDI4d0ljZUk1QT09>

Password: 7qQ796

Telephone: 1 301 715 8592

ID: 886 3015 0568

Password: 870850

Minutes

Present: Karen Hatcher, John Robertson, Jeff Brown, George Willard, Bob Marshall, Henry Kunhardt, Kristie LaPlante, Dr. Kimberly Saunders, Stephen Ullman, Alan Edelkind, Tim Theberge, Janine Lesser

1. Call Meeting to Order

Karen Hatcher called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Accept Minutes of June 25, 2020

John Robertson moved to accept the minutes of the June 25, 2020. George Willard second. Unanimous.

3. Update on Fall School Re-Opening Process

Dr. Kimberly Saunders reported that extensive work has been done to the framework for reopening, which is the foundation, and outlines what needs to be accomplished. It defines the phases of what needs consideration. Phase I represents fully or mostly remote instruction, Phase II is a combination of remote and onsite instruction, which is a mix of the calendar and includes choices. Phase III would be fully onsite with safety precautions. The intent is to open school. Dr. Saunders spoke about the numbers in the Northeast and how we are fortunate. This document is over 50 pages and is not final. An Executive Summary has been developed as well. It is not the final plan. 110 people were involved in creating the framework. The goal is to have a detailed plan out to the community during the first week in August. We are taking the safety of students and staff extremely seriously. Student needs on an academic and social level are in the forefront. Dr. Saunders spoke about the Extended School Year (ESY) Summer Program underway which has allowed the district to run through what is needed for reopening. Dr. Saunders said that the plan is a number of indoor and outdoor classrooms. Orders have just been placed for ionization systems. The calendar has been reviewed and amended to allow parents a planning tool that provides flexibility to further change moving forward, depending on the numbers.

The planning has been serious to take various potential scenarios under consideration.

Karen Hatcher said that she and John Robertson, along with Alan Edelkind and Janine Lesser have been part of the Governance Committee. She spoke about the sheer amount of work involved in this planning.

Kimberly spoke about the group of bright and dedicated educators that have been part of this work.

She said that the budget has been frozen to make sure that dollars are leveraged for reopening. The School Board is meeting every Tuesday to review dollars that will have the largest impact on reopening.

Kimberly said that we have \$333K less \$64K (allotted for private schools in district) in equitable services from CAREs funding. Our reopening costs are estimated at \$1.5M to \$2.0M. Other think tanks estimate up to \$5M. There are potential dollars in Senate bills. We are going after every federal dollar that exists. Stephen Ullman said that money coming out of Congress cannot be counted on until late August. It remains to be seen.

The estimated \$848,000 fund balance will be used to offset school tax revenue. It is an early estimate and will be finalized when the audit comes in. Kimberly added that HealthTrust has indicated that they are anticipating a return of funds as a result of healthcare savings. Employees pay in so some of these funds will return to them. FEMA dollars was touched upon.

Henry Kunhardt asked about equitable services. Dr. Saunders said that the United States Department of Education (USDOE) has put out a requirement that says that we have to provide some of those dollars to non-public schools in our district. Grants first go through the State Education Agency. Guidance was given that we had to follow the highest per student cost for each of the non-public students in the district. The USDOE said no, if we wanted to we could allocate that money for only low income students at those schools. If you did that, the CAREs dollars could only be applied to Title I schools, of which ConVal has four.

Alan Edelkind said that a cover letter will be included as a press release with the documents and with the general distribution. It will go to fire, police, town administrators, and other town staff to allow them a good education on what the plan is. Every stakeholder should be communicated with.

Kimberly Saunders said that in terms of reopening, we are looking at a middle of the road Phase II opening. We will offer remote strands for those unable or uncomfortable with returning to school. Our calendar will be broken down in sessions based on periods of potential risk. For example, we could return to remote learning at times of higher risk such as when college students return home around Thanksgiving. If indicators inform us that numbers are low or higher, shifts can take place.

Any decisions on sports? Kimberly said that there is a lot of discussion underway. As we watch a large New England Conference and UNH make the decision not to have fall sports, it causes us to look at our program harder. We do want to look at some level of activity for our students. It depends on what others in the region decide. She added that it would also be great to flip the sports and conduct Spring sports this fall. She does not know what the Southwest districts will decide or the NHIAA.

Bob Marshall asked if parents have approached the district to discuss pulling students for one year. Kimberly said that she has had no such approaches. However, she has had kindergarten parents approach and discussed at which grade their child would reenter at, either K or first grade, upon return.

Kimberly said that she has also heard that people who have vacation homes are considering staying for an extended length of time and registering their children.

4. Fund Balance Update

\$848,000 is the current estimated fund balance. The first round of the audit should be complete in the fall.

5. Other

Tim Theberge reported that this Tuesday's School Board meeting will take place in the ConVal High School gym. Blended, hybrid meetings will begin.

Karen Hatcher said that she feels no urgency to meet in person at this point unless she hears otherwise. The next SAC meeting is scheduled for August 27th at 7:00 p.m.

6. Adjourn

Bob Marshall motioned to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. George Willard second. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok